

**TOWN OF GLASTONBURY  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held the Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Also present was Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent of Schools, Susan Karp, Board Chairman and Members of the Boards of Education and Finance.

**1. Roll Call**

***Council Members***

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman  
Mrs. Jill Barry, Vice Chairman  
Dr. Stewart Beckett III  
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll  
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh {*excused*}  
Ms. Mary LaChance  
Mr. Lawrence Niland  
Mr. George P. Norman  
Mr. Whit C. Osgood {*excused*}

**1. Town Clerk to call Town Meeting to order.**

***Mrs. Joyce Mascena***

Mrs. Mascena welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and led the pledge of allegiance. She showed the first and earliest book of town history used with quill pens from 1687 through 1708.

**2. Election of Acting Clerk.**

***Nomination By:*** Council Chairman Gullotta  
Kimberly Meanix Miller for Acting Clerk

***Seconded By:*** Council Vice Chairman Barry

Mrs. Mascena called for other nominations but hearing none, she closed the nominations and called for a vote.

***Result:*** Motion passes unanimously with no nay votes voiced.

### **3. Election of Moderator of Town Meeting.**

**Nomination By:** Council Chairman Gullotta  
Kevin Graff as Moderator.

**Seconded By:** Council Vice Chairman Barry

Mrs. Mascena called for other nominations but hearing none, she closed the nominations and called for a vote.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously with no nay votes voiced.

Mr. Graff asked for a moment of silence for long time town servant, Patricia Low.

He said he had previously served on the Town Council in 1999 and 2005 expressing pride that local officials put the town first over partisan politics. He also recognized and thanked town staff for all their efforts. He urged people to sign up for public comment and noted that at the end, all will have the opportunity to voice a non binding, advisory vote.

### **4. Opening remarks by Town Council Chair, Thomas Gullotta.**

Chairman Gullotta explained that this begins the process of budgeting for taxes, the revenue to fund services they as a community desire. He said these include police, fire, roads, schools, land preservation and the library. He asked that all remain civil and trust in the process and town officials.

### **5. Remarks by Board of Education Chair, Susan Karp.      *Spoke under 6 (b)***

### **6. Presentation on Budgets:**

#### **(a) Town Operating and Debt & Transfer Budget and Capital Improvement Program Budget. (Town Manager)**

Mr. Johnson reviewed slides saying that this year has been one of the more interesting years with the almost entire loss and then partial restoration of state funding and potential additional restorations expected. He spoke to the budget reductions and restorations on the town budget. He spoke to the factors influencing the proposed budgets such as labor, health insurance, pension, professional development, utilities and fuel, data processing and sidewalk maintenance. He emphasized that without the remaining state aid restoration, the budget increase would be 3.2% but with the restoration, 2.18%.

He reviewed debt and transfers representing zero change but an increase in OPEB and an option to increase the capital transfer, reduction of the investment assumption or a credit against the tax rate. He reviewed the declining debt service. Overall, he said that the town and education budget would increase by 3.09% if no more state aid is restored and 2% if some state aid is restored as expected. He reviewed revenues noting the grand list increase of .89% excluding revaluation but 5% with revaluation. He reviewed the mil rate noting last year, it was bifurcated but this year they propose a unified rate of 36.65 mils. He reviewed a scenario of a typical home tax levy before and after the proposed increases noting that the collection rate was assumed to be 99.1%. He reviewed the capital budget and thanked his staff Julie Twilley, Director of Finance, Kathryn Kell and all the directors for their work in putting together the budget.

**(b) Education Operating Budget. (Superintendent of Schools)**

Board of Education Chairman Karp indicated that the proposed education budget best reflects the needs of the educators. She also spoke to the challenges presented by the reductions in state aid as well as smaller than anticipated savings in retiring teachers requiring \$3.3M in cuts which she detailed. She thanked their incredible staff including the Superintendent and Assistants. She noted that they did get word of some restoration and they have based the 2018-2019 budgets on the full restoration as indicated by the state and Town Council.

*Mrs. Barry left the meeting at 7:52pm.*

Dr. Bookman reviewed the savings efforts of the Board of Education. He also spoke to special education requirements starting for children in the district at age 3 to age 21 with support ranging from a para in the classroom to service in the home or hospital. He reviewed the cost per pupil, lower third within the DRG, enrollment and staffing projections. Dr. Doug Foyle, Board of Education Vice Chairman, explained the factors contributing to the proposed 2.2% increase such as salaries which are contractual and health insurance. Dr. Bookman reviewed their place within the DRG saying that overall, education is a good value with positive results as well as being cost effective.

**7. Public Input**

**(a) Public Comments.**

*No one spoke*

**(b) Public vote to express an opinion on the proposed budget for the guidance of the Town Council. (Section 703 of the Town Charter).**

Mr. Graff stated that while the totals were correct, there were some errors in the subtotals presented in the public notice. He reviewed each correction. Based on the town charter, Mr. Graff asked all residents present to express their opinion on the corrected proposed budget which provides guidance to the Town Council in their deliberations. All votes expressed were aye, in favor of the budget, and there were no nay votes.

**8. Adjournment.**

**Motion By:** Board Chairman. Karp **Seconded By:** Board Vice Chairman Foyle  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual Town Meeting of Monday, January 29, 2018, adjourns at 8:14 pm.

**Result:** With no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kimberly Meanix Miller*

**Kimberly Meanix Miller**  
**Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta**